

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

INSTRUCTIONS

I. Specific Instructions

1. This form is to be used for a Petition for Determination of Right of Disposition of the Remains of a Decedent pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7.
2. O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 provides that the Petition may be filed by either (1) the funeral home with present custody of the remains of the Decedent or (2) one of two or more persons with the same relationship to the Decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in the Code section.
3. Notice of the filing of the Petition and the hearing to be held to consider same will be as the Court directs.
4. According to Probate Court Rule 5.6 (A), unless the Court specifically assumes the responsibility, it is the responsibility of the moving party to prepare the proper citation and deliver it properly so it may be served according to law. All pages after the Notice regarding Uniform Probate Court Rule 5.6 (A) are to be completed by the moving party, unless otherwise directed by the Court.
5. Exhibits should be labeled at the bottom of each exhibit as Exhibit “A,” Exhibit “B,” etc. in consecutive order. The corresponding letter of each said exhibit should be inserted into the appropriate place in the form.

II. General Instructions

General instructions applicable to all Georgia Probate Court Standard Forms are available in each Probate Court or at www.gaprobate.gov, labeled GPCSF 1.

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE: _____)
)
) **ESTATE NO.** _____
DECEASED)

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF THE PROBATE COURT:

The Petition of _____
[Full name(s) of Petitioner(s)] *First Middle Last*
whose physical address(es) is/are _____,
Street City County State Zip Code
and mailing address(es) is/are _____,
Street City County State Zip Code
shows to the Court the following:

1.

[Full name of Decedent] *First Middle Last*
whose place of domicile was _____,
Street City County State Zip Code
departed this life on _____, 20____.

2.

Petitioner is: [initial as applicable]

- _____ (a) One of two or more persons with the same relationship to the Decedent
for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A.
§ 31-21-7.
_____ (b) The funeral home with present custody of the remains of the Decedent.

3.

There are two or more persons with the same relationship to the Decedent for purposes of
the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7, such persons being:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Relationship to Decedent</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4.

There are no known persons having a higher priority pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 to make decisions concerning the disposition of the remains of the Decedent than those listed in Paragraph 3 above.

5.

The Decedent:

_____ (a) had an advanced directive that addressed the disposition of the principal's body and is attached as Exhibit "_____".

_____ (b) did not have an advanced directive that addressed the disposition of the principal's body.

If (a) is selected please list the person(s) named as the agent:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Relationship to Decedent</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

6.

[initial as applicable]

_____ (a) Of those persons listed above, the following have not participated in the attempt to determine the manner of disposition of the remains by agreement: _____ . Reasonable efforts have been made by one or more of the others named in Paragraph 3 above to notify such person(s) and seek his/her/their participation. However, Petitioner is not aware of any opposition to the decision of a majority of those participating.

_____ (b) Of those persons listed above, the following are currently present in this county and are accessible to Petitioner for service of notice by hand delivery: _____ .

_____ (c) Of those persons listed above, the following have acknowledged service of notice of this Petition and consent to the determination of the right of disposition of the remains of Decedent: _____ .

7.

Disagreement exists among those persons named in Paragraph 3 above as to the location, manner and conditions of disposition of the remains of the Decedent and/or as to the arrangement for funeral goods and services to be provided.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays:

1. that a hearing be held by the Court, at a time and on a date set by the Court, after such notice as the Court deems reasonable and practical under the circumstances of this matter;
2. that the Court determine the person to be the most fit and appropriate to carry out the right of disposition and make decisions regarding the remains of the Decedent, upon consideration of the factors set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 (d) (2); and
3. that an appropriate order issue in accordance with the Court's determination of the right of disposition of the remains of the Decedent.

Signature of Petitioner

Printed Name

Mailing Address

Telephone Number

Signature of Attorney

Printed Name of Attorney

Address

Telephone Number

State Bar #

VERIFICATION

GEORGIA, _____ **COUNTY**

Personally appeared before me the undersigned Petitioner who, after being duly sworn, states that the facts set forth in the foregoing Petition for Determination of Right of Disposition of Remains of a Decedent and the attached Exhibit(s) are true and correct.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
_____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature of Petitioner

NOTARY/CLERK OF PROBATE COURT
My Commission Expires _____

Printed Name of Petitioner

Mailing Address

Telephone Number

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

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ESTATE NO. _____

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONSENT

I, the undersigned, being among those persons named in Paragraph 3 of the Petition for Determination of Right of Disposition of Remains of Decedent, do hereby acknowledge service of notice of the filing of the Petition and consent to the determination by the Court of the right of disposition of the remains of Decedent and acknowledge that it is our responsibility to contact the Court to determine the date and time of the hearing.

SIGNATURE(S) OF INTERESTED PARTIES

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
_____ day of _____, 20_____

Signature

NOTARY/CLERK OF PROBATE COURT

Printed Name

My Commission Expires _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
_____ day of _____, 20_____

Signature

NOTARY/CLERK OF PROBATE COURT

Printed Name

My Commission Expires _____

NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PETITIONER (MOVING PARTY) UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE COURT.

SEE PROBATE COURT RULE 5.6 (A).

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

_____,
DECEASED

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)
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)

ESTATE NO. _____

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

ORDER FOR SERVICE OF NOTICE

The Petition for Determination of Right of Disposition of Remains of a Decedent having been filed, read, and considered, and it appearing to the Court that disagreement exists among two or more persons with the same relationship to the Decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7,

IT IS ORDERED that a hearing on the Petition shall be held on _____, 20____ at _____ A.M./P.M. in Courtroom ____, _____ County courthouse.

IT IS ORDERED that notice of the time and date of the hearing be issued and served upon the following: *[initial as applicable]*

_____ those persons, other than the Petitioner, if applicable, with the same relationship to the Decedent for purposes of the right to dispose of the remains as set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 named in Paragraph 3 above (including)(excluding) those persons named in Paragraph 5 of the Petition above. Notice shall be by hand delivery to an employee of the funeral home having possession of the remains of Decedent (unless the funeral home is the petitioner) and to any of those persons named in Paragraph 3 of the Petition who are present in this county, whether as residents of this county or otherwise, and by first-class mail to any of said persons who are not present in this county not less than ten (10) days prior to the hearing. Petitioner shall be responsible for any service by hand delivery and shall attest by sworn affidavit the fact of such hand delivery; the Clerk shall be responsible for service by mail and shall certify the completion of same.

_____ the funeral home in present custody of the remains of the Decedent;

notifying him/her/them of the right to be and appear at the hearing and to be heard concerning the right of disposition of the remains of the Decedent.

SO ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Judge of the Probate Court

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE: _____)
)
_____,) **ESTATE NO.** _____
DECEASED)

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
OF REMAINS OF A DECEDENT**

NOTICE

GEORGIA, _____ COUNTY PROBATE COURT

TO: *[all persons upon whom the Court has ordered service of notice of the hearing]* _____

BE NOTIFIED THAT:

_____ has filed a Petition for the Court to determine the right of disposition of the remains of the Decedent named above. A hearing has been set by the Court on ____, 20__ at ____ a.m./p.m. in Courtroom ____, _____ County courthouse. Those persons upon whom service has been ordered may be and appear before the Court at such hearing and be heard concerning the right of disposition of the remains of the Decedent.

Judge of the Probate Court

By: _____
Clerk of the Probate Court

Address

Telephone Number

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

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DECEASED

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ESTATE NO. _____

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
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CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY OF NOTICE

I, the Petitioner in the foregoing proceeding, do hereby certify under oath that I have this day hand delivered in person a copy of the Notice in this matter to:

[initial as applicable]

- _____ (a) an employee of the funeral home having possession of the remains of Decedent;
- _____ (b) each of the following persons named in Paragraph 3 of the Petition who is present in this county but has not acknowledged service of notice:

_____.

Date

Printed Name of Petitioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
this ____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature of Petitioner

Notary/Clerk of Probate Court

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

_____,
DECEASED

)
)
)
)

ESTATE NO. _____

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I have this date mailed (unless otherwise noted) in an envelope with the proper postage affixed thereto for first-class mail delivery copies of the _____

_____ to the following parties at the addresses below:

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Clerk of the Probate Court

Address

Telephone Number

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN RE: _____)
)
) ESTATE NO. _____
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PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
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FINAL ORDER

The Petition of _____ for Determination
of the Right of Disposition of the Remains of the Decedent named above having been filed, and

The same having come before the Court at the time and on the date set by the Court, and

Upon hearing and considering the evidence presented to the Court, taking into account
those factors set forth in O.C.G.A. § 31-21-7 (d) (2), the Court finds that _____
is the most fit and proper person to make decisions concerning the disposition of the remains of
the Decedent.

WHEREUPON, IT IS ORDERED that _____ shall have the sole and exclusive
right to make all decisions concerning the disposition of the remains of the Decedent, including
but not limited to the location, manner and conditions of disposition of the remains of the Decedent
and/or as to the arrangement for funeral goods and services to be provided; provided, however,
that expenses and costs of same shall not exceed a reasonable amount under the circumstances of
the Estate of the Decedent and the ability of the Estate to bear such expenses and costs.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk shall serve a copy of this Order upon each
interested party present at the hearing; shall, if no employee of the funeral home was present at the
hearing, notify the funeral home by telephone that a copy of the Order may be obtained from the
court, which copy may, upon request, be transmitted by facsimile or by attachment to electronic
mail; and shall mail a copy of the Order to all interested persons named in the petition who were
not present at the hearing.

[if applicable]

_____ **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the costs of these proceedings and the
reasonable attorney fees for the filing of same that were incurred and paid by the funeral home
may be added to the cost of final disposition of the remains of the Decedent.

SO ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Judge of the Probate Court

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF _____ COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN RE:

_____,
DECEASED

)
)
)
)

ESTATE NO. _____

**PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF RIGHT OF DISPOSITION
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I do hereby certify that I have this day:

_____ hand delivered a copy of the foregoing Order to the following persons who were present in court at the hearing: _____

_____ *[if an employee of the funeral home was not present at the hearing]* notified the funeral home by telephone that a copy of the Order may be obtained from the Court (and, at the request of the funeral home,) (transmitted a copy of the Order by facsimile) (transmitted a copy as an attachment to electronic mail).

_____ mailed by first-class mail a copy of the Order to each person upon whom service of notice was ordered who was not present at the hearing by placing a copy of same in an envelope, properly addressed and with adequate postage thereon, and deposited in the U.S. Mail, with the return address of this Court thereon.

Date

Clerk of the Probate Court

Address

Telephone Number